

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the clarity and conciseness of the Office Action and for the citation of the references which have been studied with interest and care.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14, 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by HERBERT 6,121,761.

HERBERT, referring to FIG. 7, discloses a capacitor divider circuit which includes four capacitors C1-C4, switched by four switches S1-S4. HERBERT clearly fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claims.

With respect to claim 1, HERBERT does not disclose or suggest a multiplicity of energy storage devices adapted to individually controllably receive energy from the Vout node (e.g., C2a, C2b, C2c... C2t in FIG. 5 of the subject application). In HERBERT, referring to FIG. 7, the only energy storage device receiving energy from V_O is C6. Nor does this reference disclose or suggest means for processing... comprising a multiplicity of switched capacitors [that] are disconnectably connectable in-series (e.g., by M8b, M8c... M8k in FIG. 5 of the subject application).

With respect to claims 2 and 3, the Examiner has not indicated where in the cited reference the additional limitations set forth in these dependent claims can be found. HERBERT does not appear to disclose or suggest that the energy storage devices comprise a multiplicity of small capacitors. As noted above, in HERBERT, referring to FIG. 7, the only energy storage device receiving energy from V_O is C6.

With respect to claims 7 and 10, as noted above, HERBERT does not appear to disclose or suggest that the energy storage devices comprise a multiplicity of small capacitors. In HERBERT, referring to FIG. 12, the switch network 269 selectively switches capacitors C2-C5 to rapidly change the output voltage. Configured as such, C2-C5 are not adapted to individually controllably receive energy from the Vout node (claim 1); rather, they serve to change the output voltage.

With respect to claim 14, HERBERT does not disclose or suggest a multiplicity of switched capacitors adapted to be electrically configurable in parallel between the battery and ground and electrically configurable in series between ground and a node Vout.

With respect to claim 21, HERBERT does not disclose or suggest disconnectably connecting a multiplicity of switched capacitors in parallel between the node Vs and ground

[and] disconnectably connecting the switched capacitors in series between ground and a node Vout.

For the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15, 22-25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable in their present form.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Concurrence by the Examiner and early passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees which are required in connection with this communication and which are not specifically provided for herewith are authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 500651. Any overpayments are also authorized to be credited to this account.

Respectfully submitted,



June 25, 2005

Peter L. Holmes
Reg. No. 37,353
Attorney for Applicants

HENRICKS, SLAVIN & HOLMES LLP
840 Apollo Street, Suite 200
El Segundo, California 90245-4737
Telephone: (310) 563-1454
Facsimile: (310) 563-1460